

Urban District of
PORTSLADE - BY - SEA



REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1963

by

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

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HOVE :

The Hove Shirley Press Ltd.
45-47 Shirley Street—A56458

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Urban District of Portslade-by-Sea.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1963

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1963 compiled in accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Health and amplified as customary with additional information and comments on matters of local importance and interest.

Vital Statistics

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of Portslade for mid-1963 (17,140) shows a further increase of some 600 persons, i.e. about four per cent which has been the average yearly advance for the past 10 years. The special volume of statistics for East Sussex compiled from returns made during the 1961 census gives some interesting additional facts about the age grouping of the residents at that time. Out of a total population of 15,774 persons, 1,763 men and women were of pensionable age, i.e. about nine per cent which compares very favourably with Hove's 25 per cent and of these six males and 20 females were between 90 and 95 and a further six persons were over 95, a tribute to the longevity enjoyed by residents of the urban district. At the other end of the scale there were 3,341 children between the ages of 0 and 15, i.e. 20 per cent. It was not to be expected that last year's phenomenal 15 per cent rise in the Birth Rate would continue indefinitely and actually there was a drop in the number of births—about five per cent in 1963. The Infant Mortality Rate dropped accordingly from 27 per 1,000 live births to 22. There was also an increase in the number of deaths which produced a rise in the Death Rate from 10.93 to 12.42. Despite these adverse factors the population increased as mentioned above by 600.

Infectious Disease

Except for Measles which showed its accustomed biannual rise from four to 427 cases (but all mild), the incidence of all the other infectious diseases was minimal. There were no cases of Food Poisoning notified which if it is an earnest of greater attention being paid both in the home and the shops to personal hygiene is very reassuring.

Immunisation.

Whilst the other types of protection against Infectious Diseases maintained their usual average in respect of the number of acceptances this year compared with 1962, smallpox vaccination showed a noticeable falling off due to its postponement from the first to the second year of life on the advice of the Ministry of Health. Comparison with the totals for 1962 are fallacious since in the year the widely publicised smallpox outbreak in Zermatt, Switzerland, focused public attention on the need for vaccination for both infant and adult, but nevertheless in 1962 the number of children vaccinated in the first and second years of life amounted to over 200, in 1963 this dropped to under 50 for the same age groups. Mothers had been accustomed to vaccination being the first of the series carried out at about three months when they are in regular attendance at the Welfare Centre—the postponement until the second year of life when their attendances tend to drop off in any case involves a special visit with a baby who is a little older or a little more active and more difficult to control. In our home visits and by propaganda at the centres we are striving to impress in mothers the vital importance of this form of protection but unfortunately public interest and apathy waxes and wanes according to the presence or absence of smallpox in this country and Western Europe.

Fluoridation

In 1961 the then Minister of Health granted permission for Local Health authorities to accept financial responsibility for the fluoridation of water supplies in areas where this element is naturally deficient and the subject was debated at one of the meetings of the Public Health Committee. Probably because neither side is prepared to accept data put forward by its opponent and because the propaganda of the anti's is always very much better organised than that of the protagonists the proposal received no support and we must continue to accept the gravely deteriorating teeth of children despite all our efforts to educate their parents in the deleterious effects of too many sweets and to pay enormous bills for their dental care when by a simple expedient the mouths of succeeding generations could be materially improved.

Slum Clearance

Official representations were made in respect of nine properties and clearance orders confirmed in respect of a further 23 properties but whilst it is comforting to remember that we are gradually reducing the amount of obsolete slum property there were in

1961, as revealed by the census returns, 670 unshared permanent dwellings—about 13 per cent—without a hot water supply ; 496—10 per cent—without a fixed bath ; and 50 without a W.C.

General

It seems that in all probability this will be my last Annual Report and I should like, therefore, to record my thanks to all, the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committees whom I have served for their support and encouragement at all times in the carrying out of my responsibilities as your Medical Officer of Health. I have always had the unfailing support of Mr. Donald, the Public Health Inspector, who has relieved me of all anxiety in the supervision of the Health and welfare of the district, and I am also indebted to Mr. Tozer the Clerk, and Mr. Rudgely the Surveyor for sound advice and assistance whenever it was required.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

N. E. CHADWICK,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS 1963

Population : 17,140.

DEATHS :	Total	M	F
	213	132	81

Death Rate : 12.42 (Standard).
12.66 (Corrected).

Deaths from :

Measles (all ages)	..	..	Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	Nil
Pneumonia	..	..	10
Cancer (all forms)	..	..	32

		Total	M	F
Live Births	..	308	166	142

Live Birth rate per 1000 population .. 17.96 (Standard)
17.42 (Corrected)

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births : 6.49%

Stillbirths	..	2	..	..	—	—	—
-------------	----	---	----	----	---	---	---

Rate per 1000 Total live and stillbirths : 6.45

Total Live and Still Births	..	310	167	143
-----------------------------	----	-----	-----	-----

Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	7	4	3
-------------------------------------	---	---	---

Infant Mortality rate per 1000 live births	..	..	22.72
--	----	----	-------

Infant Mortality Rates :

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	..	22.72
--	----	-------

Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 Legitimate live births	..	..	24.30
--	----	----	-------

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 Illegitimate live births	..	..	—
--	----	----	---

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	..	..	16.23
--	----	----	-------

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	..	..	12.98
---	----	----	-------

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and stillbirths)	..	..	19.35
---	----	----	-------

Maternal Mortality (inclusive abortion) :

Number of deaths	..	..	Nil
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Rate per 1000 total live and stillbirths	..	..	Nil
--	----	----	-----

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

DRAINAGE.

The whole of the public roads in the district are sewered by gravitation on the water carriage system.

All houses in the District are connected to the public sewers with the following exceptions :

There are 9 houses served by cesspools, of these cesspools 3 do not, as regards the statutory distance, come within the requirements of the Act. During the year 1 house was connected to the Public Sewer and the cesspool filled in.

In addition there are 2 houses, situate in outlying parts of the District, provided with earth closets.

All sewerage is discharged into intercepting sewers which are under the control of the Portslade and Southwick Outfall Sewerage Board. Disposal is by means of Sea Outfall owned by the Board.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR. The Public Health Inspector has prepared the following Annual Statement of his visits and notices :

Houses inspected for housing defects	..	485
Number of inspections made for the purpose.		1454
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	..	315
Number of inspections made for that purpose		623
Number of complaints received.	..	229
Informal Notices served (P.H. & H. Act)	..	40
Houses found dirty or verminous	..	13
Houses with insufficient refuse bin	..	5

Defective and Choked Drains	..	..	78
Defective Closets	..	..	27
Defective Sinks	..	..	8
Defective Roofs and Gutters	..	..	79
Damp Walls and Ceilings	..	..	93
Defective Walls and Ceilings	..	..	139
Defective Floors	..	..	27
Defects to Windows, Doors, etc.	..	..	82
Defects to Grates	..	..	23
Defects to Chimneys	..	..	27
Defective Paving	..	..	21

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The destruction of rats and mice has been successfully continued throughout the year, both in surface properties and in the Council's sewers.

During the year 92 infestations were dealt with on surface properties and 1 sewer treatment carried out.

The treatment is free to private properties but a small charge is made for business premises.

Eradication of Vermin.

During the year 13 houses were found to be in a dirty or verminous condition and of these, 6 were disinfested by spraying with insecticides.

This work has been carried out by the Council and the cost of materials has been charged to the Owner or Occupier.

HOUSING ACCOMODATION

PROVIDED AT DECEMBER, 1963

Council Houses and Flats	..	..	939
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INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	485
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1454
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	26
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	307

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	72
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INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

There is only 1 Farm in the District which is supplying Tuberculin Tested Milk.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955. SECTION 16.

There are 77 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream and 11 premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, pickled or preserved food.

There were 32 inspections of registered premises throughout the year.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1960.

During the year 84 inspections of food premises were made and in 5 of them infringements of the Regulations were found.

Notices were served in respect of the following items :—

Provision of First Aid Materials	..	..	1
Display of Notices requiring persons to wash their hands after using sanitary convenience	..		2
Provision of towels, soap, etc.	..	..	1
Walls, ceilings, etc., requiring repair or decoration			2
Provision of lockers for clothing	..	..	1
Cleanliness	..	..	1
Repairs to structure	..	..	1

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

There are no slaughterhouses in the District and most of the home killed meat is brought in from Brighton Abattoir.

The following foodstuffs were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption.

5 stones of skate

6 stones of cod fillets

1 stone of dogfish

20 lb. prawns

1 sponge cake

1 packet of noodles

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	24	4	—	—
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	61	51	1	—
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises)	12	3	—	—
TOTAL ..	97	58	1	—

Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	No. of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	2	—	—	—

SLUM CLEARANCE.

Housing Act 1957.

Premises dealt with during 1963 :

Official Representation in respect of :—

Nos. 2 and 4 Elm Road

„ 4, 6, 8 Albion Street

„ 51, 53, 55 High Street

„ 63 Station Road

Orders Confirmed :—

Nos. 19 to 33 Wellington Road and No. 21 Camden Street

„ 69 to 79 Wellington Road

„ 49, 51 Wellington Road

„ 2, 4 Elm Road

„ 4, 6, 8 Albion Street

TUBERCULOSIS—1963

	New Cases				Inward Transfers				Deaths				Other Removals				Recovered				Cases on Register				Totals					
	Pul.		Non-Pul.		Pul.		Non-Pul.		Pul.		Non-Pul.		Pul.		Non-Pul.		Pul.		Non-Pul.		Pul.		Non-Pul.		1963	1962				
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F						
Under 1																														
1— 5																														
5—10																														
10—15																														
15—20		1				1																			2	2				
20—25						1																			2	2				
25—35	1	1											1	1											6	4				
35—45						1							1												31	33				
45—65	1	1			1	2							1	1											30	35				
Over 65	2				1	1																			56	51				
																									2	17	11			
Totals	4	3			2	6			1				3	2											83	46	10	5	144	138

INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1963.

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.				Total cases Notified. 1962	1963
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	18	14
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	16	14
Measles ..	..	..	..	4	427
Dysentery	..	..	..	4	4
Pneumonia	..	..	..	11	11
Erysipelas	..	..	..	4	—
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	3	—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION—1963

Children born in years	Number of Children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the authority's area during the year	Number of Children who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection during the year	Total
1963	108	—	108
1962	168	1	169
1960	15	5	20
1961	1	1	2
1959	—	5	5
1954-1958	26	288	314
1949-1953	20	48	68
Total	338	348	686

SMALLPOX VACCINATION. 1963.

Age at date of vaccination	I. NUMBER OF PERSONS VACCINATED (OR RE-VACCINATED DURING PERIOD		II. NUMBER OF CASES SPECIALLY REPORTED DURING PERIOD.		
	Number Vaccinated	Number re-Vaccinated	(a) Generalised Vaccinia	(b) Post-Vaccinal Encephalomyelitis	(c) Death from com- plications of vaccina- tion other than (a) and (b)
0 to 3 mths	3	—	—	—	—
3 to 6 "	3	—	—	—	—
6 to 9 "	1	—	—	—	—
9 to 12 "	5	—	—	—	—
years					
1	36	—	—	—	—
2 to 4	6	8	—	—	—
5 to 14	1	8	—	—	—
15 or over	7	48	—	—	—
TOTAL	62	64	—	—	—

